amount projected in the Detailed Project Report (DPR). A fresh Petition has been filed by a local resident of Thangal village against the State Government and others on 26.9.2001 in the High Court, Imphal Bench.

The State Government is also required to make arrangements for the accommodation of the security forces. They have requested that the cost of accommodation be booked to the project cost. This would affect the cost of the project Tariff and its viability.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 35.00 crores has so far, been released for the project. No funds have been released towards payment of compensation.

Setting up power transmission projects by private firms

392. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private firms are eager to set up power transmission projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that offers are being made by private Indian Companies as well as foreign companies; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) POWERGRID had invited bids for private investment for specific Transiui&tio.. Projects associated with Tala Hydro-electric Project through Joint Venture Route and Request for Qualification (RfQ) for 400 KV D/C Bina-Nagda-Dehgam Transmission Project through Independent Private Transmission Company (IPTC) route. Offers have been received by POWERGRID from Private Indian Companies as well as foreign companies in this regard. These offers are under process in POWERGRID.

POWERGRID had also invited Expression of Interest (Eol) from interested parties for participation in eight future

transmission projects for their implementation through IPTC route. Seventeen companies including eight multinational companies have shown their interest for the same.

The Government plans to add around 1,00,000 MW of generation capacity by the year 2012. For evacuation of this power, investment in transmission would have to be made by the private sector, in addition to investments through budgetary support of the Government and external borrowings, besides internal resources of POWERGRID.

In order to facilitate the entry of private sector into transmission, vide the Electricity Law Amendment Act, 1998 as notified on 31.12.1998, transmission is now treated as a distinct activity. While POWERGRID would continue to be the Central Transmission Utility to undertake inter-State transmission and development of a National Grid, private sector participation in transmission is likely to receive a boost with the availability of a transparent and level playing field under the regulatory umbrella of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Payments for the supply of energy meters

393. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 172 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether pending payments to suppliers against supplies of energy meters have since been cleared as promised in parts (c) and (d) of the above referred question;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered for the misappropriation Central Government funding to the State Government of Manipur and Rural Electrification Corporation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?